

Message Text

PAGE 01 LISBON 00576 140845Z

60

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 140815Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9127

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0576

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PO, CU, VT, BE

SUBJECT: LUNT-PERALTA CASE

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR FREITAS CRUZ TOLD DCM FEBRUARY 12 THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN STATUS OF PERALTA/LUNT CASE. RECENT COURT DECISION DENYING PERALTA'S APPEAL HAD BEEN A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. DCM REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID IN AN EARLIER MEETING THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT PORTUGAL HAD VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO GAIN IN THE PERALTA MATTER EXCEPT THE POSSIBILITY OF ENHANCING GOODWILL TOWARD PORTUGAL WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AT THIS PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL TIME. FREITAS CRUZ INDICATED THAT HE HAD CONVEYED THIS THOUGHT "UP THE LINE", THAT THE MATTER WAS NOW SITTING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL (E.G., PRIME MINISTER CAETANO) AND THAT WHILE THE INITIAL REACTIONS WERE NOT ESPECIALLY FAVORABLE NO DEFINITIVE DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN.

2. ON FEBRUARY 13 DCM DISCUSSED MATTER SEPARATELY WITH BELGIAN AND APOSTOLIC NUNCION DCM'S. AFTER HEARING OF AMEMBASSY LISBON INITIATIVES ON MATTER, BOTH AGREED EFFORTS BY THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES TO INTERVENE WOULD LOOK TO GOP LIKE "GANGING UP" AND WOULD, IF ANYTHING, PREJUDICE CASE. APOSTOLIC NUNCIO DCM ADDED THAT GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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VATICAN'S PROBLEMS HERE WITH GOP RELATED TO PORTUGUESE AFRICA, E.G. SPANISH PRIESTS RECENTLY RELEASED FROM JAIL IN MOZAMBIQUE, APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURA WOULD NOT BE ABLE ARGUE WITH ANY EFFECTIVENESS ON THIS MATTER IN

LISBON. FROM VATICAN POINT OF VIEW, ITS ONLY ROLE
WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN HAVANA.
SCOTT

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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